

ENDANGERED SPECIES CURRICULUM

GRADES K – 8

ABC of Endangered Species (http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/02/lp260-04.shtml)

Students create an ABC Book of Endangered Animals that includes locator maps, "fast facts," and explanations about why those animals are endangered. This lesson is best suited for grades K-8 and adheres to National Education Standards.

Subjects

Arts & Humanities

Language Arts, Visual Arts

Educational Technology

Science

Life Sciences, Animals, Physical Science, Environmental

Social Studies

Geography

Brief Description

Students create an *ABC Book of Endangered Animals* that includes locator maps, "fast facts," and explanations about why those animals are endangered.

Objectives

Students will:

1. choose an endangered species to research that begins with an assigned letter;
2. research the animal's habits, habitat, and endangered status;
3. create a page for a class ABC book that includes a photograph or artwork of the animal, a brief description of the animal and its habits and habitat, a "fast fact" that shares the most interesting thing they learned about the animal, and an explanation of why the animal is endangered; and
4. report to the class the results of their research.

Keywords

animals, endangered, species, ABC, world, research

Materials Needed

1. library and/or Internet sources about animals and/or endangered species;
2. art supplies;
3. a world map that can be used as a locator map on the students' reports (sources provided);
4. materials for gathering students' pages into a book

Lesson Plan

Explain to students that they are going to create a class *ABC Book of Endangered Species*.

To assign students a letter of the alphabet, write each letter on a small piece of paper, fold the papers, put them in a container, and let each student draw a paper from the container. If students are to work on this assignment in groups, each member of the group can take a turn drawing a slip from the container and letters drawn by group members will become their assigned letters.

An alternative approach is to divide students into small groups and assign a different continent to each group. Students can search for endangered species by continent rather than by letter. If students have Internet access, they can use the Kids' Corner (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/kids/index.html>) as one of their resources. If students do not have Internet access, print out copies of the "master list" of endangered animals from that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' web site, the animal and plant list (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>), will make an excellent starting point, especially for younger students. Excellent photographs that students can print and use on their ABC book pages are available on the Internet. We have included photographs of Arkansas' endangered species and information about each species in this packet.

Have students use library or Internet resources to learn facts about the endangered species they have been assigned for the class book. Following are a handful of elements that might be included on the completed pages:

1. name of the endangered animal;
2. an image of the animal (a student drawing or an image downloaded from the Internet);
3. a small world map to indicate where the species is known to exist;
4. paragraph with a description of the animal that includes information about its size, color, habits, and habitat;
5. a statement explaining why the animal is endangered;
6. a "fast fact" telling the most interesting thing the students learned about the animal -- something many people might not know

When students have completed their pages, ask them to share them with the class with a brief presentation (2 minutes) highlighting the results of their research.

Assessment

Students' work will be evaluated based on whether their animal pages include all the required elements and on the presentation of their research.

Lesson Plan Source

Education World; submitted by Gary Hopkins